

August, Thursday, April 9, 1863.

Terms of the Maine Farmer. \$2.25 per annum, or \$3.00 if paid within three months of the date of subscription.

Notice. Mr. H. P. WELLS will call upon subscribers in Waldo County.

Torpedoes. We have heard of late, a good deal respecting torpedoes as being one of the modes by which the rebels are to blow up any one of our war ships in particular, and our whole navy in general.

Had first, a boat so constructed as to enable him, when shut up in it, to drive under the water, and be propelled by means of machinery, to any required point. Attached to this boat, and at the prow or bow, was a magazine of powder.

During the war with England in 1812-15, several inventions for the purpose of blowing up British ships were made, but none of them were put into practice that we know of.

At the present time a great deal of science and ingenuity have been brought into requisition by the "secesshers," to manufacture torpedoes which are sunk in some of the Southern harbors, especially that of Charleston, with a hope to annihilate any ship that shall sail over them.

THE MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE. The Special Committee appointed by the Massachusetts Legislature to take into consideration the matter of an Agricultural College, and the national land grant therefor, have reported a bill authorizing the Governor to accept the grant of land tendered by Congress for the maintenance of a College devoted to agriculture and the mechanic arts.

RYE AND WHEAT STRAW FOR PAPER. The Portland Argus states that Messrs. A. C. Dennison & Co., of Portland, have issued a circular to farmers, informing them that they are making preparations for the use of rye and wheat straw in the manufacture of paper, thereby affording a market for straw, as they will be prepared to purchase in large quantities during another harvest, and pay cash.

The War News of the Week. No general movement of importance has been made by our armies in the Southwest during the past week. The expedition under Gen. Sherman and of Admiral Porter, up the Yazoo by way of Steele's Bayou and the Sandow river, for the purpose of turning the rebel position at Haines' Bluff, has failed. The rebels had so obstructed the channel that no progress could be made through it. An attempt was made by the navy to hem in the fleet by obstruction front and rear, but the infantry succeeded in releasing the vessels after some skirmishing, and they have returned to the Mississippi river. It is reported that the effort to force a passage with gunboats through the Tallahatchie into the Yazoo, has also abandoned. The latest accounts, however, state that a renewed attempt will be made to reduce Fort Pemberton, which constitutes the chief obstacle to the successful progress of the expedition.

An attempt to run by the rebel batteries at Vicksburg was made by the Union ram Lancaster and Switzerland on the 24th ult. without success. According to a despatch, dated at Cairo, March 31st, as soon as they came within range the rebels opened a tremendous fire. The Lancaster was struck thirty times. Her entire bow was shot away, causing her to sink immediately. The crew was disabled by a sixty-four pound ball penetrating the steam drum. She floated down, the battery still firing and striking her repeatedly, until finally the Albatross ran alongside and towed her to the lower mouth of the canal. Later despatches inform us that the injuries to the Switzerland were not serious and that she is again ready for service. She will cooperate with Admiral Farragut's fleet.

On the 30th ult. Gen. Gilmore attacked the rebels near Somerset, Ky., and drove them before him after a sharp fight of about five hours. The rebels were driven from their first position, which was defended by six cannon, and the second position was finally stormed and carried. The rebels, commanded by Pegram and numbering over two hundred men, were driven in confusion to and over the Cumberland river, with a loss that will not fall short of five hundred men. Between three and four hundred were taken, and Scott's famous rebel regiment was cut off from the rest and scattered. Gen. Gilmore is the officer who commanded at the reduction of Fort Pulaski last April.

A brilliant expedition of our forces from Murfreesboro' towards Woodbury, on the 1st inst., succeeded in breaking up a rebel camp with six hundred men near that place. The infantry surrounded the camp, but the cavalry dashed in so vigorously that the rebels were dispersed and fled over the hills. A number were killed and wounded, and thirty were captured, together with fifty horses, a number of mules, four wagons and the rebel camp.

On the Rappahannock active operations are still delayed by the condition of the roads. A severe gale and snow storm prevailed at Falmouth on Saturday last. The only effect of importance during the week was a fight at Broad Run, near Dranesville, between the rebels, under Captain Massey, and the First Vermont Cavalry. They fought desperately on both sides, the rebel chief being wounded by a sabre cut in the forehead. Capt. Flint and Lt. Groat, of the Vermont troops, together with some six others, were killed. Our loss in all was sixty killed, wounded and prisoners. The Vermont men fought magnificently with their sabres, after they had discharged their carbines with fine effect upon the enemy.

From Baton Rouge intelligence has been received that an expedition under command of Gen. Dudley, made a reconnaissance above Port Hudson, on the opposite side of the Mississippi, to False river, to communicate if possible with Admiral Farragut, and having learned his destination and safety returned to Baton Rouge without serious damage. The command succeeded also in destroying a rebel signal station and capturing the officers and men on duty therein.

No intelligence has yet been received of the operations of the iron-clad fleet which sailed from Hilton Head on the 25th ult. If its destination was Charleston, as seems to be generally supposed, the attack must have been made several days since, and we shall soon have information of the result.

The rebel privateers continue their depredations. The Alabama burned on Feb. 21st the splendid ship Golden Eagle, of New York, bound for Queenstown, Ireland, with guano, and destroyed on the same day the bark Olive Jane, of Boston, bound from Bordeaux to New York, with a rich cargo of wines and fruits. The Florida is reported having been chased by the Vanderbilt steamer Barbados, which vessel she eluded by a cunning device. She afterwards captured the Star of Peace and the Aldebaran, of Rockhaven.

PUBLIC EXAMINATION OF SCHOOLS. The annual examinations of the Grammar and High Schools in this city—closing the winter terms, took place last week; the former on Thursday, and the latter on Friday and Saturday. Both were largely attended by parents and others interested in the prosperity of the schools, and the exercises were in the highest degree honorable to the pupils, and satisfactory to the visitors present.

The examination of the High School commenced on Friday and continued two days. It is under the charge of the same popular and efficient teachers as last year, F. A. Waterhouse, A. M., Principal, and Miss Hannah Holway, Assistant; both possessing every necessary and desirable qualification to fit them for the position, and which the excellent preparation of the school during the time it has been under their united direction, most plainly exhibits.

The schools take a vacation of four weeks, when the summer terms will commence under charge of the present teachers, whose instruction has heretofore given the highest satisfaction to the Board of Directors, and to the members of the District.

REVEREND R. A. BULLOCK. For the last five years pastor of the First Universalist Church in this city, has notified the Society of his desire to resign his charge. He designs to devote himself hereafter exclusively to his duties as editor of the Gospel Banner. The Society has been prosperous and united under the ministrations of Mr. Bulluck, and will greatly regret to lose his pastoral and pulpit services, which have contributed so much to the moral and religious well-being of the people.

MAIL ROBBERY. The Bangor Whig states that the mail from that city to Calais was robbed at Amherst on Tuesday, 31st ult., both lock bags with the entire letter mail being taken. The mail contained but a small amount of money, although there were several drafts for large amounts, the payment of which have been countermanded by the parties mailing them. Measures to prevent the robberies have been taken.

MAJ. J. W. WELCH, of the 19th Maine is at his home in this city on a short furlough. He seems to be in excellent physical condition, full of confidence and hope, and he assures us that he is only an average sample of the condition of brave men who compose the regiment. He leaves on Wednesday morning to rejoin his command.

THE 9TH MAINE. A letter from Hilton Head states that Col. Rich of the 9th Maine has been reinstated in command of that regiment, and that Col. Biebee and Maj. Baker have been mustered out of the service. They were offered the privilege of their former grades before promotion, but preferred leaving the service.

THE 3d MAINE. The Lewiston Journal learns that Col. Lakeman, of the 3d Maine is under arrest for violation of the army regulations. Lieut. Col. Barr is employed in a military commission, and the gallant Major Lee, of Farmington, who has just recovered from a severe wound received at Fredericksburg, is in command.

Meeting of the City Council. Present the Mayor, and a quorum in both branches of the City Council. In Joint Convention, the following officers were elected: John Arnold, Assessor, vice Chas. Hamlen resigned; L. B. Hamlen, Overseer of the Poor, vice P. S. Percival resigned; Chas. Lathrop, First Assistant Engineer of the Fire Department, vice Jos. Anthony resigned; Chas. F. Potter, Second Assistant Engineer of Fire Department, vice Chas. Lathrop promoted.

Report of Committee on Highways, to whom was referred the petition of Nason & Hamlen, and others, for the widening of the side-walk on the west side of Water Street, from Bridge Street north, to store of T. Lambard, was accepted, and the side-walk was ordered to be made eight feet wide, under direction of Street Commissioners, provided the expense be paid by those occupying the stores on said street.

Roll of Accounts, amounting to \$150.37 in the aggregate, was accepted and ordered to be paid. Petition of Daniel Hewins and others, for laying out a street from Pettigill's Corner to Kennebec Dam, was referred to Committee on New Streets.

Ordered, That so much of the Mayor's Address as relates to drainage of Water Street be referred to the Committee on Highways, with instruction to lay out such additional sewers as will secure the proper drainage of the street; also, to lay out a drain on the north side of Bridge Street, near D. Woodward's.

Petition of B. F. Barton, and eighty others, who have Reuben McKinney appointed a Surveyor of lumber, wood and bark, was laid on the table.

Adjourned. BERKELEY AT ANTIETAM. The New York Herald states that Mr. J. S. King, of that city, recently visited the field of Antietam in search of the remains of a friend, and finding many of the graves of soldiers buried there, he was so affected by the memorial, he prepared a list of those which he could thus distinguish. The Herald prints this list, and from it we take the following names of soldiers from Maine. The list is of course imperfect, but may be of some service to those who wish to recover and remove the remains of those who fell upon that bloody field. The numbers indicated the regiment to which the deceased belonged:

1st Maine Cavalry is in the 21st brigade, 2d division of the 1st corps. The 2d Maine Cavalry is in the 1st brigade, 1st division of the 3d corps. The 5th is in the 2d brigade, 1st division of the 6th corps.

The 6th is in the 2d infantry division of Gen. Pratt, and in the 6th corps. The 7th is in the 3d brigade, 2d division and 6th corps. The 16th is in the 1st brigade, 2d division and 6th corps. The 17th is in the 3d brigade, 1st division and 3d corps. The 19th is in the 1st brigade, 2d division and 2d corps. The 20th is in the 3d brigade, 1st division and 5th corps.

THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA. The bride of the Prince of Wales is not a Danish Princess, as has been generally stated and believed. The young lady is of German blood. Her genealogy is chronicled in some recently published sketches of the sovereigns of Europe, as follows: "She is the daughter of Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg, who is a younger brother of Duke Charles, the head of that family—a German of the Germans—was no Danish blood in her veins, although an ancestral king was elected King of Denmark, Sweden and Norway about four centuries ago."

WE learn from the Lewiston Journal, that Messrs. Plummer & Lisbon, Robinson & Bath, and other parties, having obtained an act of incorporation as the Little River Manufacturing Co., intend to go forward at once and erect a building for a cotton mill, build dams, &c., on the Androscoggin, at Little River Village, Lisbon, where they own a fine water power.

THE Brunswick Telegraph states that twenty-three vessels are to be built at Thomaston and Wiscasset, the present season; whilst Bath, Richmond, and other places on the Kennebec, the indications are that a busy time in this branch of business may be anticipated.

Under the act providing for the establishment of two Normal Schools, the Governor and Council have appointed the following Commissioners: Hon. Philip Eastman, Sen.; Hon. Henry Williamson, Sen.; and Ephraim Flint, Esq., Dover.

Latest Telegraphic News. DEMONSTRATIONS ON THE SOUTH CAROLINA COAST. LATEST FROM VICKSBURG AND THE TENNESSEE RIVER. REBEL DESERTERS COMING IN. DELICATE STATE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN. THE POLISH REVOLUTION SUPPRESSED. GEN. LANGIEWICZ CAPTURED AND IN PRISON. THE CONNECTICUT ELECTION. THE STATE CARRIED FOR THE UNION.

FORREST MONROE, 5th. Yesterday's Richmond Dispatch says: "Rebel forces fired by the Union soldiers about the 23d ult., and most of the town destroyed. The soldiers are going to reinforce Gen. Banks."

THE Rebels have landed in force on Seaboard's or John's Island. Their gunboats and several transports are lying off the island. Skirmishing has already taken place between our and the enemy's pickets. Our pickets are driven in and the enemy advancing.

CHARLESTON, N. C., April 2. There are no signs thus far of the expected attack. There has been no landing of force on any of the islands before, as reported.

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